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## Edward the Peacemaker.

It is a great name that King Edward VII has carried with him to the grave, or, rather, left behind to bless and uplift humanity. It is unquestionable that no ruler has ever before been so universally regarded, at all the capitals of Europe and throughout the rest of the world, as the promoter and bulwark of international peace as was he. He is conceded to have been the chief agency in bringing about the *entente cordiale* between Great Britain and France, so that friction and talk of conflict between them has practically disappeared. Through his influence also the relations between Russia and England have been greatly improved. The past two years, during the panic in Great Britain in regard to Germany, he threw the weight of his great position and personal influence against misunderstanding and hostility. How much he accomplished among the many agencies at work can never be known, but it was certainly very considerable.

King Edward was, when occasion offered, prompt to show his sympathy with the peace movement. He knighted Dr. Thomas Barclay for his services in and through the British and French Chambers of Commerce to prevent rupture between France and Great

Britain at the time of the Fashoda incident. Later he conferred knighthood on William Randal Cremer for the important work he had done for international concord in founding the Interparliamentary Union, the Workingmen's Arbitration League, in organizing international visits of labor representatives, etc. The warm receptions given by His Majesty's government to the Interparliamentary Union in 1906 and to the Universal Peace Congress in 1908, the Prime Minister on both occasions being the chief speaker, were striking manifestations of the king's love of peace. Those who were at the reception given by him in Buckingham Palace to a deputation from the Peace Congress two years ago were greatly impressed with the brotherliness and cordiality of his spirit and can never forget his declaration that "rulers and statesmen can set before themselves no higher aim than the promotion of national good understanding and cordial friendship among the nations of the world. It is the surest and most direct means whereby humanity may be enabled to realize its noblest ideals, and its attainment will ever be the object of my own constant endeavors."

It is not easy to determine the full secret of Edward's devotion to peace. Some of it came to him from the example and teaching of his royal mother and his princely father; some of it from the broadening influence of his extensive travel and contact with other peoples; some of it from the generally larger and more liberal spirit nearly everywhere prevailing to-day; some of it from his sense of responsibility as the head of a great civilized power. But the chief element in it seems to have been the personal one. He had a deeply social nature, and was spontaneously prompted from within to do and say the things which brought people into cordial relations with each other. Extending this disposition to the relations of nations to each other, he naturally developed into a world-wide peacemaker, a title which he appreciated more than any other of the many attached to his name.

There is strong reason to believe that King Edward's influence for permanent peace will not pass with his death. There was some misgiving on the part of a few lest his removal should weaken the bonds of peace among the nations of Western Europe. But the exact opposite seems likely to be the case, if one may judge from what has been said and written about him in all countries. He exhibited in respect to the mutual relations of nations a new order of kingship, which